

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, TU, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT KORUTURK'S CONCERN ABOUT U.S.-TURKISH
RELATIONS

1. ON NOVEMBER 22 THE SEC GEN OF THE PRESIDENCY, FUAT BAYRAMOGLU, CALLED THE AMBASSADOR TO SAY THAT PRESIDENT KORUTURK WAS INTERESTED IN SEEING THE TEXT OF THE TOASTS EXCHANGED BY PRESIDENTS EISENHOWER AND BAYAR DURING THE LATTER'S VISIT TO THE U.S. IN 1954. THE REASON, BAYRAMOGLU EXPLAINED, WAS THAT KORUTURK HAD READ AN ARTICLE IN SON HAVADIS QUOTING A PORTION OF EISENHOWER'S REMARKS. USIS WITHIN AN HOUR WAS ABLE TO FIND THE TURKISH LANGUAGE TEXT OF THE EXCHANGE OF TOASTS, AND WE PROMPTLY SENT IT TO THE PRESIDENT.

2. THE ARTICLE THAT PROMPTED THE PRESIDENT'S INTEREST, ALTHOUGH PUBLISHED IN A PRO-DEMIREL PAPER AND WRITTEN BY A FORMER JUSTICE PARTY DEPUTY, IS EXTREMELY GLOOMY ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS UNDER THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION. "IT LOOKS AS IF ON NOVEMBER 2, AMERICANS DID NOT ELECT A PRESIDENT FOR THEMSELVES BUT SYMBOLIZED THEIR ENMITY AGAINST TURKEY." THE ARTICLE BEGINS. "THE INCOMING U.S. PRESIDENT, CARTER, WHO MADE A PRESENT OF CYPRUS AND

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OUR AEGEAN SHORES TO GREECE BEFORE GETTING INTO POWER, IN

ADDITION HAS WRITTEN A LETTER TO THE ARMENIAN COMMUNITY AND TOLD THEM HE WILL HELP THEM WITH THEIR CLAIMS AGAINST TURKEY...DOES CARTER, WHO IN HIS SPEECHES FREQUENTLY INDICATES THAT HE IS A DEVOUT CHRISTIAN...THINK OF A NEW CRUSADERS' WAR AGAINST TURKEY? ...OR IS HE STARTING THE CALCULATIONS FOR A NEW LANDING IN IZMIR BY THE GREEKS?" THE ARTICLE THEN GOES ON TO SAY THAT "TURKISH AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP HAD BEEN SUCH A VALUABLE JEWEL UNTIL NOW", RECALLING U.S. ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY IN RESISTING SOVIET TERRITORIAL DEMANDS AT THE END OF WORLD WAR II, THE ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID PROVIDED SINCE THEN, AND THE TWO COUNTRIES' COOPERATION IN THE KOREAN WAR. "AFTER THAT, NO TROUBLE APPEARED IN TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS UNTIL THE GREEK DECEIT CAME TO THE SURFACE. NOW CARTER POURS ACID ON ALL THESE OLD RELATIONS AND DESTROYS THEM, AND WANTS TO SPLIT OUR MORAL CLOSENESS AND SINCERE FRIENDSHIP WITH ONE STROKE OF A SWORD, AND SEES THE TURKISH NATION AS AN ENEMY." THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY CITING IN CONTRAST THE VERY FRIENDLY REMARKS MADE BY PRESIDENT EISENHOWER DURING THE BAYAR VISIT.

3. COMMENT: WE ARE REPORTING THIS VIGNETTE AS AN INDICATION OF WHAT PRESIDENT KORUTURK IS READING, AND BECAUSE WE HAVE HEARD FROM RELIABLE SOURCES THAT HE IS INDEED WORRIED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS.

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